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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/910,641	07/20/2001	Perriann M. Holden	1827-U-01 CIP	2605

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01/30/2002

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EXAMINER

HOEY, ALISSA L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3765

DATE MAILED: 01/30/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/910,641

Applicant(s)

HOLDEN, PERRIANN M.

Examiner

Alissa L. Hoey

Art Unit

3765

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Objections*

Claims 6 and 11 are objected to because of the following informalities: The term "thistle cloth" is not normal to the art, please define it in structural terminology.

Appropriate correction is required. It is further unclear in claims 3 and 8, why a disposable pad needs a reusable adhesive?

### *Drawings*

1. The subject matter of this application admits of illustration by a drawing to facilitate understanding of the invention. Applicant is required to furnish a drawing under 37 CFR 1.81. No new matter may be introduced in the required drawing. The specification contains descriptions to drawing figures, yet none are filed with the application.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-5, 7-10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scholl (US 3,253,591).

Scholl provides a protective pad member (1) to prevent abrasion, comprising a flexible pad having top and bottom surfaces (figures 6-8), an adhesive material (26) on the top surface for removably securing the pad to the body part and a removable layer

covering the adhesive material (25). Further Scholl provides pre-formed, cupped pads for the toes (figure 4) and a cushioning material disposed in the pad between the top and bottom surfaces (figures 6, 7, 8, and 10). However, Scholl fails to teach the protective pad member being decorative, disposable, having a reusable adhesive and being applied to the feet of animals.

It would have been an obvious design choice to have provided a decorative design to the bottom surface of the protective pad, since decorating a surface of a pad is obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art depending upon end use.

It would have been obvious to have provided the reusable adhesive on the protective pad of Scholl, since a reusable adhesive is an alternative to a regular adhesive as supported in Applicant's specification on page 5, lines 5-14. It would have been further obvious to have provided the protective pad of Scholl as a disposable item, since nothing prevents the protective pad of Scholl from being disposed of. With respect to the method of claim 2, it would have been obvious to have provided the protective pad of Scholl in the same method as claimed.

4. Claims 6 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scholl in view of McCarthy (US 2,985,970).

Scholl provides a protective pad member as described above in claim 1 and 2. However, Scholl fails to teach a protective shell on the outside of the pad. McCarthy provides a protective foot pad having a protective shell (column 2, lines 5-15).

It would have been obvious to have provided the protective shell of McCarthy to the protective pad of Scholl, since the protective shell provides a durable pad to be worn on a user's barefoot.

### ***Conclusion***

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Matthews (US 5,592,689), Saurini (US 6,059,043), Davidson (US 4,619,055), Snook (US 5,545,129), Oliverio (6,120,473), Holden (US D 446,913), Holden (US 5,732,412), Knudsen (US 5,199,498), Aldrich et al. (US 5,896,580), Scharf (US 4,920,577), Dumont (US 5,014,354), Crampton (US 5,920,902), Denman (US 4,831,666) and Thompson (US 4,561,124) are all cited to show closely.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alissa L. Hoey whose telephone number is (703) 308-6094. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30) Second Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Calvert can be reached on (703) 305-1025. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-0758 for regular communications and (703) 308-0758 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.

  
JOHN J. CALVERT  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

**The below text replaces the pre-printed text under the heading "Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes," on the of the PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier) form.**

**INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES**

**1. Correction of Informalities -- 37 CFR 1.85**

New corrected drawings must be filed with the changes incorporated therein. Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the title of the invention, inventor's name, and application number, or docket number (if any) if an application number has not been assigned to the application. If this information is provided, it must be placed on the front of each sheet and centered within the top margin. If corrected drawings are required in a Notice of Allowability (PTOL-37), the new drawings **MUST** be filed within the **THREE MONTH** shortened statutory period set for reply in the Notice of Allowability. Extensions of time may **NOT** be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b) for filing the corrected drawings after the mailing of a Notice of Allowability. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

**2. Corrections other than Informalities Noted by Draftsperson on form PTO-948.**

All changes to the drawings, other than informalities noted by the Draftsperson, **MUST** be made in the same manner as above except that, normally, a highlight (preferably red ink) sketch of the changes to be incorporated into the new drawings **MUST** be approved by the examiner before the application will be allowed. No changes will be permitted to be made other than correction of informalities, unless the examiner has approved the proposed changes.

**Timing of Corrections**

Applicant is required to submit the drawing corrections within the time period set in the attached Office communication. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

**Failure to take corrective action within the set period will result in ABANDONMENT of the application.**